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A JFK conspiracy theory grows

Miami police report discloses plot to kill president during trip there

By Michael Cole
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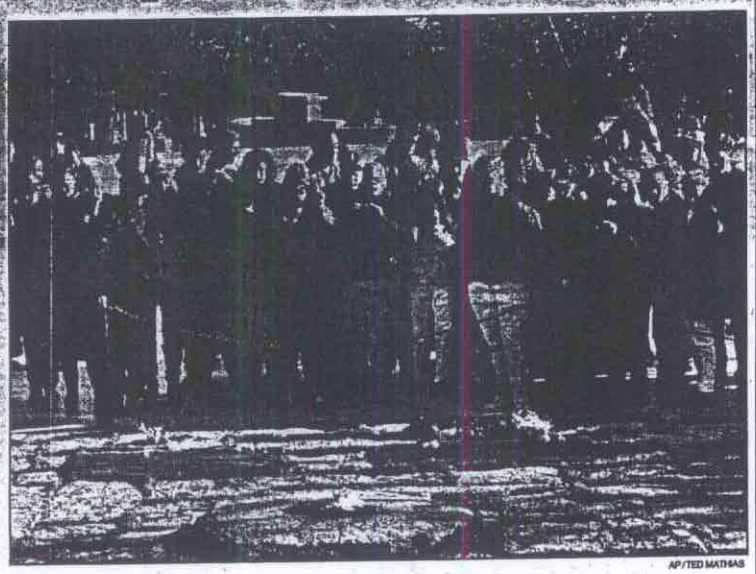
The Secret Service was told of a possible plot to shoot President John F. Kennedy from an office building with a rifle at least a week before his assassination, files released by the Miami Police Department confirm.

The right-wing organizer who revealed the alleged plot also told a police informant the day after the Nov. 22, 1963, assassination that Lee Harvey Oswald would never talk about it.

The day after that interview, Nov. 24, Oswald was shot and killed by Jack Ruby in the basement of the Dallas police department.

The Miami police files confirm and add to an account by a retired police intelligence officer, Lt. Everett Kay, who said three years ago that he learned of an assassination plot from informant William Somersett. The FBI and Secret Service would not comment at the time.

A newly released Nov. 15, 1963, memo from Miami detective S.J. Hebert shows the Secret Service was aware of the alleged plot before the assassination.



AP/TED MATHAS

Tourists observe *eternal flame at graves of President and Mrs. Kennedy at Arlington National Cemetary.*

Information for the FBI

"Agent Jamison of the Secret Service called to state that he had been requested to contact a William Somersett with reference to information given to the FBI by Somersett, and relayed to the Secret Service," the memo says.

Three days later, Kennedy visited Miami — where his motorcade was canceled — before flying on to Texas. He was shot in Dallas 31 years ago Tuesday, and authorities accused Oswald of firing a high-powered rifle from the Texas Book Depository.

Secret Service spokesman Frank Cagigas in Washington said Monday that he would check on the Miami report, but was not familiar with the case.

"But if we hear that someone is going to go up on a building and take a shot at the president, I guarantee we would check it out," he said.

Somersett, who reported on the activities of white supremacy groups, secretly taped a conversation with Joseph Milteer, a wealthy member of the White Citizens Council in Georgia.

During a meeting in Miami on Nov. 5, 1963, Milteer says Kennedy is a "marked man," according to the police transcript. Kay had played the tape for the Associated Press three years ago.

Concern dismissed

When Somersett asks how an assassination would be done, the transcript says Milteer replied, "From an office building ... with a high-powered rifle." He explains that it would be easy to take a gun in pieces into an office building. And he dismisses Somersett's concern that an assassination would cause a furor.

"Hell, they'll pick up somebody within hours after, if anything like that would happen ... just to throw the public off," Milteer says on the tape.

Although Kay says he rushed the tape to the FBI, the information was never revealed in the Warren Commission Report on the assassination. There is no indication Milteer was interrogated until five days after the assassination. He professed no knowledge of the plot, the Miami police files say.

Neither Milteer nor Somersett was ever called by the Warren Commission. Both are now dead.

Federal authorities and congressional investigators reviewed the tape in the 1960s and 1970s but never reported finding any link with the Kennedy assassination.

According to the police files, Somersett and Milteer met in Jacksonville, Fla., the day after the assassination, when Oswald was being held by Dallas police.

"A lot of money" involved

Milteer wouldn't tell Somersett how he knew of a plot beforehand, but said there was "a lot of money" involved and that Oswald would not disclose anything, Somersett related.

"He will just not say anything, and nobody has any worry," Somersett quoted Milteer as saying, according to his police debriefing.

Milteer also told Somersett that Oswald's ostensibly pro-Castro Fair Play for Cuba group had been "infiltrated by the patriot underground and arranged from there to have the execution carried out and drop the responsibility right into the laps of the Communists."

In the debriefing, Somersett said Milteer had indicated that "ground work was being set, maybe, in five to six different states to kill the president." Somersett didn't elaborate, but said at another point in the interview that Milteer told him the anti-Kennedy forces were organized in several Southern states including Texas.

Basilisa Muniz *places flowers at Dealey Plaza in Dallas Tuesday marking the anniversary of assassination of President John F. Kennedy.*

Dr. Marion Jenkins, who pronounced JFK dead has died [*A-13*]